

commitments under the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention states that in "armed conflicts not of an international character, persons taking no part in hostilities . . . shall be treated humanely." Article 36 of the OSCE Code of Conduct states that "if recourse to force cannot be avoided in performing internal security missions, each participating State will ensure that its use must be commensurate with the needs of enforcement. The armed forces will take due care to avoid injury to civilians or their property." Russia's campaign in Chechnya violates these commitments.

In this letter, I am urging President Putin that the Russian Government allow into Chechnya and Ingushetia an international monitoring mission.

This international monitoring mission should have unfettered access and a broad mandate to monitor and report on the humanitarian situation. The Russian Government should immediately allow all civilians safe passage from Chechnya, assist those persons who have been displaced from Chechnya as a result of this conflict, and allow representatives of international humanitarian agencies full and unimpeded access to those persons in order to provide humanitarian relief.

President Putin has made a commitment that an international monitoring presence would be allowed. This has not happened.

Finally, I am urging the Russian Government to initiate investigations into alleged human rights abuses and to hold accountable those responsible.

As a Senator, I send this letter to President Putin today. I think it is very important that he devote every effort to achieve a peaceful resolution.

Neither the use of force in 1994 to 1996, which left over 80,000 civilians dead, nor the current use of force in Chechnya will enhance the prospects for any durable settlement to this conflict.

I am sending this letter today. I am going to send a copy to the Senator from Colorado and other colleagues as well. I hope other Senators will speak out.

There is a delegation of several high-ranking officials, parliamentarians with the Chechnya Government, who are here, and they have been trying to meet with our State Department. So far, they have not been able to arrange any meeting at all.

I am not asking the State Department to recognize the official government, but our State Department has met with dissidents from China and dissidents from Russia over the years. I think these parliamentarians, these courageous individuals from Chechnya, deserve at least an audience with the State Department—whether it be with the Secretary of State, whether it be with Strobe Talbott, or whether it be with Secretary Koh who has done such a fabulous job on human rights issues.

I just want to say to the State Department today—I am going to continue with calls—I just think it is wrong to not at least meet with these

individuals. We have a massacre of innocent people going on there.

As the son of a Jewish immigrant—born in the Ukraine, who lived in Russia, and fled persecution in Russia—I understand our Government's role in the world to speak out for human rights. Our silence, the silence of the administration and our Government, is deafening. I think Democrats and Republicans need to call on President Putin to live up to his commitment to allow an international monitoring force to protect innocent civilians and to get humanitarian assistance to people. This is a moderate, modest request.

CAPITOL HILL POLICE SECURITY

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, in the few minutes I have remaining today, I will talk in specifics about the security situation here at the Capitol, and what is going on and what is not going on by way of living up to our commitment to Capitol Hill police officers, and also to the public.

As I said, we have made the commitment, and we should honor the commitment. You need two officers at a post for their security, much less the security of the public.

Two examples. Please remember, for those who are listening, the officer who works alone at any number of these posts is responsible for the following: Watching the x ray monitor for weapons or contraband, personally screening persons with a handheld metal detector—I say to the Senator from Colorado, we come in every day, and we see them doing this—controlling pedestrian traffic at entrances, and watching both entry and exit doors for people who try to bypass security.

That is what one officer at one post is supposed to do.

Example: Ford House Office Building, Annex 2, Third Street door entrance, 441, Third Street, Southwest. By the way, the Third Street entrance is a multiple-door entrance.

Monday, February 7, 2000, one officer was assigned to this entrance from 0700 to 1500 hours. From 1200 to 1300 hours, 512 people entered through the Third Street entrance—one officer.

The Ford Building sits directly across from the Federal Center Southwest metro station, for those who are trying to identify it.

From 0800 to 0900 hours, 215 people entered through the entrance—one officer. This is Monday, February 7.

By the way, during the highest volume of pedestrian traffic, an officer who was passing by just simply stopped and offered assistance. But that is not the way it is supposed to be.

Hart Senate Office Building, 120 Constitution Avenue, Northeast; C Street door entrance to the Hart Building. This is a multiple-door entrance that is open to staff—Government workers—from 0700 to 0900 hours. This entrance is actually directly next to Senator NICKLES' office.

Tuesday, February 3, one officer was assigned to this entrance from 0700 to 1500 hours. As I say, that was Tuesday, February 3.

From 0900 to 1000 hours, 432 people entered through this entrance, not to mention the 332 staffers—Government workers—from 0800 to 0900 hours—one officer. Just think about the number of people who are streaming in with one officer. Again, I don't know exactly who is right in terms of how this problem gets solved. I think some of our police officers believe there are overtime funds for this purpose. It may be that upper management is arguing that those funds are not available. Others say we have to have more funds to hire more people. One way or the other, either there is money there for the overtime funds to properly staff these posts or additional money is necessary in appropriation.

I just gave two concrete examples on the House and the Senate side this month of February. I don't think any Senator or anyone in any decision-making position who is responsible for the security situation here—starting with these police officers, for them, much less for the public, much less for us—can justify this. It cannot be defended.

I will say it one more time. I think it is OK for me to say it. If I say it the wrong way, it is not OK for me to say it. We lost two fine officers. Agent Gibson, Officer Chestnut, we lost them. I do believe we all said to one another that we were going to do everything humanly possible to get the very best security for our officers. No one can ever guarantee a 100-percent safe situation. What we do know is that we can do everything that is humanly possible to try to meet that goal.

I just gave two examples this month that show we have fallen way short of meeting that goal. We are not doing right by the Capitol Hill police officers. We are not doing right by the public. We have to take action.

I will give other examples over the days and weeks to come. Of course, my hope is this problem will be dealt with.

I thank Senator DURBIN for allowing me this time. Not seeing any other Senators on the floor, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I didn't want to take any time during